Preamble.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is whether the Preamble form part of the Bill.

The question was put and agreed to.

The Preamble was added to the Bill.

Title.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is whether the Title form part of the Bill.

The question was put and agreed to.

The Title was added to the Bill.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Should not the year of commencement be specified, Sir?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That can be done at the third reading Now, the second reading of the Bill is over. I presume that it is the general desire of the House that I should examine the various provisions again and I believe it is their desire that I should put off the third readingto a future date. But if the House so desires I have no objection to move the third reading also now. I am in the hands of the House. I can move for the third reading only if the Chair gives permission.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I think it is better to allow the third reading now and only under exceptional circumstances to postpone the third reading of the Bill.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not propose to allow Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai to move the third reading now,

THE TRAVANCORE CIVIL COURTS' POWERS AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The next item in the agenda is the Travancore Civil Courts Powers Amendment Bill. I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Travancore Civil Courts' Powers Amendment Bill.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will now pass on to the next item in the agenda.

THE TRAVANCORE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The next item in the agenda is the Travancore Life Assurance Companies Bill. Sir, a Committee has already been appointed to consider this Bill and the Committee has also partly considered it. But we have had no member to represent the Government Life Assurance business in the Committee. Mr. R. Nilacanta Pillai is in charge of that. So, I beg to move that Mr. R. Nilacanta Pillai be added to the Select Committee appointed to consider the Travancore Life Assurance Companies Bill.

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MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I second it.

The Motion was carried.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. R. Nilacanta Pillai is appointed as a member of the Select Committee.

THE TRAVANCORE BREACH OF CONTRACT (REPEALING) BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the Criminal Law. The Bill has been published in the Gazette with a Statement of Objects and Reasons and I beg to move that the Bill be read in the Assembly.

RAO SAHIB DR. N KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I second it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The object of this Bill is to repeal certain enactments which provide for punishment of breaches of contract by labourers. There are two enactments that are in force in Travancore. One is Regulation II of 1080, as subsequently amended as Regulation V of 1087 which provides for the punishment of certain breaches of contract committed by artisans, labourers and other workmen. The other is the Penal Code. Sections 493 and 495 provide for the punishment of certain breach of contract. I trust there is no necessity to read all these provisions as we are already getting too late. In British India they had enactments corresponding to these and they have repealed them by Act II of 1925. The International Labour Conference has also expressed the view that forced or compulsory labour should, as a rule, be abolished as early as practicable and this principle has been generally accepted in British India. The enactments referred to are in spirit against the convention adopted by the International Labour Conference. I may add that in the sister State of Mysore also they took steps to repeal this and have done so by Act IV of 1933. The Breach of Contract Regulation was passed in Travancore generally speaking, in support of the planting community. Therefore the views of Mr. Lampard was ascertained and he has written that there is no objection to the proposed Bill.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I wish to add a few words in support of the principle of this Bill. I do appreciate this measure. But this piece of legislation ought to have been undertaken long long ago. The International Labour Office, as long ago as 1930, in their report had been finding fault with certain Indian States for keeping these laws in the Statute Books. Sir, I think that this piece of legislation remained in our Staute Book so long because we were not very vigilant with regard to the removal of this legislation which has ceased to be of use from a very long time. The very fact that this law was repealed in British India in 1925 and that we are in the year 1935

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